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ACTING ISN'T THAT HARD

Justin Theroux talks 'The Girl on the Train' and his easy job. 14

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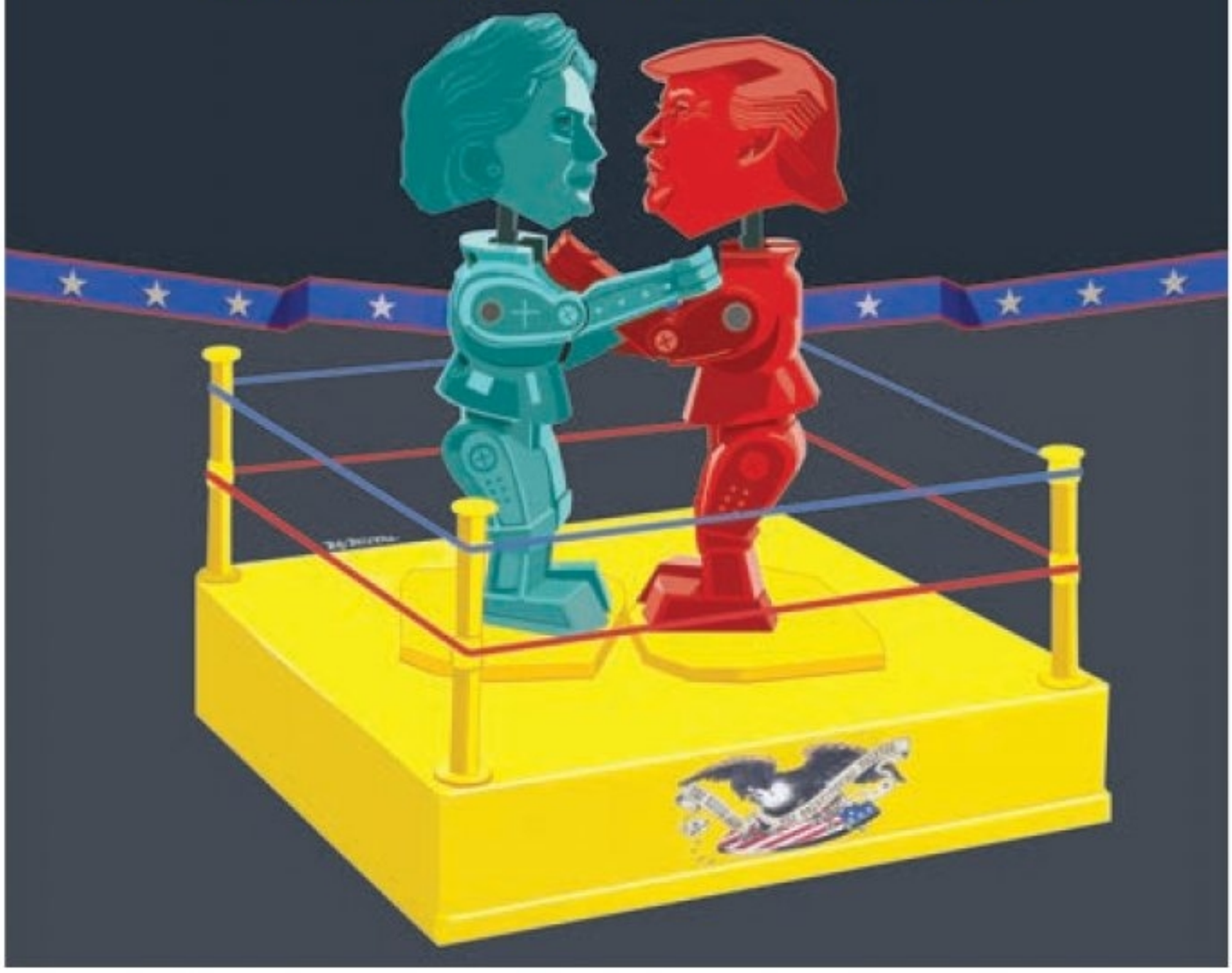
Trump threatens to make Sunday a rock 'em sock 'em debate. 2



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3 things you need to know

WATCHDOG CITES EX-AIDE TO DEFENSE SECRETARY FOR MISCONDUCT

A former top military aide to U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter used his government credit card to pay bills at night clubs, lied about it and behaved inappropriately with female subordinates, the Pentagon watchdog said on Thursday. In a written response to the watchdog's report, former aide Army Major General Ron Lewis disagreed with its conclusions and disputed some of the facts, but said he was aware of "mistakes, errors in judgment and perceptions" he may have created. REUTERS

ASSAD OFFERS REBELS AMNESTY IF THEY SURRENDER ALEPPO

2 Rebels holed up in Aleppo can leave with their families if they lay down their arms, President Bashar al-Assad said on Thursday, vowing to press on with the assault on Syria's largest city and recapture full control of the country. The offer of amnesty follows two weeks of the heaviest bombardment of the five-and-a-half-year civil war, which has killed hundreds of people trapped inside Aleppo's rebel-held eastern sector and torpedoed a U.S.-backed peace initiative. Fighters have accepted similar government amnesty offers in other besieged areas in recent months, notably in Daraya, a suburb of Damascus that was under siege for years until rebels surrendered it in August. However, rebels said they had no plan to evacuate Aleppo, the last major urban area they control, and denounced the amnesty offer as a deception. "It's impossible for the rebel groups to leave Aleppo because this would be a trick by the regime," Zakaria Malahifji, a Turkey-based official for the Fastaqim group which is present in Aleppo, told Reuters. "Aleppo is not like other areas, it's not possible for them to surrender." REUTERS

US CHARGES SIX SOLDIERS WITH SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT OVERSEAS

3 Eight people, including six soldiers, have been charged with stealing more than $1 million worth of sensitive U.S. Army equipment and selling the gear on eBay to buyers in Russia, China and other countries, the Justice Department said on Thursday. The soldiers, based in Fort Campbell in Tennessee and Kentucky, were indicted with the two others by a federal grand jury and charged on Wednesday. The equipment included night vision helmet mounts, which were sold to eBay customers in Russia, China, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Lithuania, Moldova, Malaysia, Romania and Mexico, the department said in a statement. REUTERS

METRO'S NEWS QUIZ

You read Metro to stay on top of the news. Now's your chance to find out how much you know. Take our daily news quiz to test your knowledge by going to **www.metro.us /news-quiz** to submit your answers.

1. What does a recent survey say about how Philadelphians feel about their city?

2. How many wins does the Union need to make the playoffs

3. Which David Lynch film was Justin Theroux in (that wasn't "Inland Empire")?

GETTY IMAGES

Taxes, emails and VPs: Trump and Clinton prep for second debate

The second debate is scheduled for 9 p.m. Sunday at Washington University in St. Louis.

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As the second presidential debate nears the candidates are undoubtedly plotting their attacks based on the latest developments: the VP debate, revelations of Trump's $916 million business losses and possible tax avoidance, new GOPers disavowing Trump and the claims of a new batch of Clinton hacks.

Although Hillary Clinton enjoyed an uptick in poll numbers after the first presidential debate (CNN poll of polls has her leading 44 to 42 percent), she has at least one new hill to climb: She will have to overcome the overbearing impression her running mate, Sen. Tim Kaine, made on Oct. 3 while sparring with the rather collected Gov. Mike Pence.

"Pence had a softer and more confident approach," Georgetown University political scientist Stephen Wayne said. "Kaine was hyped and overprepared for the debate. Pence did better, but the overall effect will be negligible."

The second presidential debate is town hall style, where audience members pose questions to the candidates who are free to roam around and add their personal touch — a format with which Clinton has a lot of experience. Trump's best venues have proven to be large, loud rallies. Other questions will be selected by debate moderators Martha Raddatz of ABC News and Anderson Cooper of CNN from online submissions and are expected to focus largely on background checks for gun purchases and social security benefits, according to Bloomberg.

Trump has a great asset in the polish and experience of Pence, who was crowned the winner with an overwhelming majority of polltakers. Yet Pence's ideal performance at the VP debate could very well draw a stronger contrast with Trump's combustible disposition and set the bar higher for Trump in the upcoming debate.

"Pence was the anti-Trump," a Nevada Republican told Politico. "He was prepared, smart, composed and he showed respectful competence and leadership."

Pence might be a ticket-balancer, but he can't repaint the campaign. With only a month to go before the general election, there is not much more Trump can do to undo his earlier moves that are reaping disdain.

On Thursday, 30 congressional Republicans signed a letter stating that they simply could not vote for Trump along with searing reproach.

"In nominating Donald Trump, the Republican Party has asked the people … to entrust their future to a man who insults women, mocks the handicapped, urges that dissent be met with violence, seeks to impose religious tests for entry into the United States, and applies a de facto ethnicity test to judges," the letter read.

"He offends our allies and praises dictators. His public statements are peppered with lies …"

In terms of Clinton's obstacles, reports have surfaced about a new stream of hacked emails that threaten to expose Clinton Foundation secrets with allegations of "pay to play" deal-making and include files purporting to prove it.

Remarks from the self-proclaimed hacker, the notorious Gufficer 2.0 (said by some to have Russian ties) seem to imply that security around the Clinton Foundation databases was weak.

"Hillary Clinton and her staff don't even bother about the information security. It was just a matter of time to gain access to the Clinton Foundation server."

The Clinton camp refuted the claim that the hacker stole files.

"We still have no evidence Clinton Foundations systems were breached and have not been notified by law enforcement of an issue," a foundation official said.

"Given the Russians' long track record of faking the origin and doctoring the content of documents acquired through cyberattacks, the committee is working to determine if these were stolen from our network," said Meredith Kelly, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee national press secretary.

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BRIEFS

Baby allegedly fed nuts and berries diet removed from vegan mom's custody

A Pittsburgh area vegan mom allegedly "obsessed" with vegan diets, lost custody of her boy after she was reported for feeding him only nuts and berries.

Elizabeth Scarlett Hawk, 33, faces criminal charges for endangering the welfare of a child, KDKA reported, after her ex-husband and sister-in-law reported her to Fayette County's Children & Youth Services.

Her extreme views on diet included subsisting on "water and sunlight," sister-in-law Brandy Hawk told KDKA.

Hawk said that during a visit she noticed that her 11-month-old nephew had a "severe rash" and poor "motor skills."

"He couldn't use his hands at all," she said.

The child was taken to child services and then brought to a West Virginia hospital for treatment. Court records show that a physician said the child's condition was "inhumane" and that the diet would result in developmental delays.

However, family members told KDKA that since he and the couple's other two children have been brought to the father's home, he is doing well.

A spokeswoman with PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) said going vegan is good for kids, but that the diet Hawk was feeding her child was clearly unbalanced.

"Children are malnourished from eating carcinogen-linked processed meats," said PETA spokeswoman Katie Arth. "Eating only fruits and nuts is also bad, whereas a real vegan diet—rich in green vegetables, beans, pulses, grains, seeds, and fruits and nuts—is nutritious and sets a child on the path to a healthy old age."

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ISTOCK

Judge orders Uber, Lyft to cease operations in Philadelphia

A cease-and-desist order comes as the PPA admits its unable to stop the services on its own.

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Ride-hailing services UberX and Lyft were served a cease-and-desist order Thursday, less than a week after a temporary agreement of immunity between the services and the Philadelphia Parking Authority expired.

Court of Common Pleas Judge Linda Carpenter issued the immediate moratorium because of the PPA's claim that it is unable to stop UberX and Lyft from operating, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Though the PPA, which regulates taxi and limousine services in Philadelphia, said it would consider Uber and Lyft services illegal on Tuesday, representatives from both companies said they would continue to operate, essentially returning them to the state of legal limbo they occupied since Uber debuted in the city two years ago.

Carpenter's order stems from a lawsuit from members of the Taxi Workers Alliance of Philadelphia that sought to halt an arrangement between the PPA and the ride-hailing services for them to temporarily operate in the city.

Instead, Gov. Tom Wolf signed a bill that authorized UberX and Lyft to operate legally until Sept. 30 to help the city provide transportation to participants in the national Democratic Party nominating convention. Now that the governor's measure has expired, the lawsuit is back on the table.

Uber management is reviewing the judge's order, said Craig Ewer, spokesman for the company.

"This order makes it even more clear that the clock has run out for Harrisburg to pass a comprehensive ride-sharing bill," he said. "We're calling upon leaders in the House to put ride-sharing to a vote as soon as possible."

Uber has not yet decided to shut down in Philadelphia, Ewer said.

Meanwhile Lyft said they never got a chance to defend themselves in court, as they were not named in the suit.

"Today's hearing was about a case that did not involve Lyft and which Lyft was not given the opportunity to respond," said Lyft spokeswoman Chelsea Harrison. "We are reviewing the order and evaluating our legal options."

On Thursday afternoon, Uber's app was still functioning in the city and Metro was able to schedule an UberX ride from Center City to South Philly.

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Rising insurance costs over deaths sink duck boat tours in Philadelphia

Philly lawyer previously called for moratorium on all duck boats in April 2016 after a sixth duck boat-related death in less than two years.

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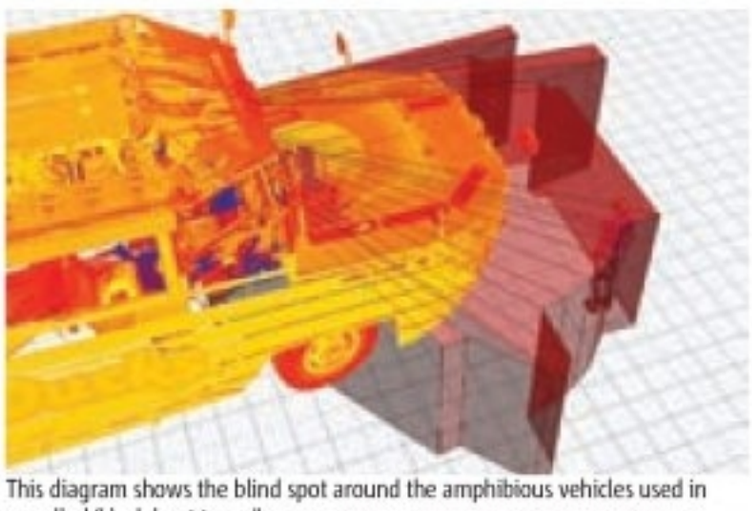

This diagram shows the blind spot around the amphibious vehicles used in so-called "duck boat tours." COURTESY OF SALTZ, MONGELUZZI, BARRETT & BENDESKY, P.C.

Nearly 18 months after a tourist visiting Philadelphia was crushed to death by a Ride the Ducksamphibious tour boat, the company that operates them is abandoning the city, citing rising insurance costs.

"As of Oct. 5, 2016, Ride The Ducks Philadelphia has suspended operations indefinitely," the company abruptly announced on its website on Wednesday night. "We regret having to close our operation and send good wishes and brotherly love to the people of Philadelphia."

Sadly, the amphibious tour boats that give children and tourists a fun way to see cities from the streets and nearby waterways have been involved in multiple deaths over the years in the various cities where they operate, including Philly, Boston and Seattle (not all duck boats are operated by the same company).

Philly attorney Robert Mongeluzzi, who is representing a tourist's family in a pending lawsuit and is an expert in duck boat crashes, called for all duck boat tours to be halted after a 28-year-old woman on a motor-scooter was hit and killed by one in Boston in April.

Boston Duck Tours decided to add a crew member to their tours as a safety measure three months after the fatal accident.

"How many more people have to die in duck boat accidents before authorities realize they are deadly on land and in the water," said Mongeluzzi. "Through our experience representing victims of duck boat disasters we've determined they are fatally flawed; they're death traps on the water due to their hazardous canopy design and on land they are engineered to restrict the peripheral vision of the operator, creating significant blind spots."

Last year In Philadelphia, 68-year-old Elizabeth Karnicki of Beaumont, Texas, was killed in front of her husband while crossing 11th and Arch streets by a Ride the Ducks vehicle. Witnesses reported that the tourist was looking at her iPad and crossed against a red traffic light.

According to Ride the Ducks, a 330-percent increase in insurance costs for their Philadelphia operations forced them to close. They'll be laying off 42 full- and part-time employees in the city.

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More Philadelphians happy about their hometown, survey says

The latest poll from The Pew Charitable Trusts indicates Philly's image is improving.

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An iconic 1970s billboard along Interstate 76, back when Philly probably was just as bad as we said it was. REDDIT

A growing number of Philadelphians apparently love what's happening in the City of Brotherly Love, according to the results of a new survey.

In its August 2016 survey, The Pew Charitable Trusts polled 1,600 people on such topics as the direction of the city, confidence in its leaders and the condition of its public schools. The results are in, and they are "among the most positive registered in the seven polls Pew has conducted in the city since 2009," the nonprofit wrote in its summary.

Half of the respondents said they felt their hometown was headed in the right direction, compared to 34 percent who said it's on the wrong track. That's an improvement from 2012, when only 39 percent said they thought the city was on the right track.

Pew noted that those who expressed a positive opinion about the city's direction response were most likely non-Hispanic white college graduates, over the age of 65 with household incomes over $100,000 and who have lived in the city for 10 years or less. Those more likely to view the city on the wrong track were Hispanics, African-Americans and those living below the poverty line.

Respondents overwhelmingly said they felt "proud" of their city after it hosted two big-stage events: the visit of Pope Francis last September and the Democratic National Convention in July. The inconveniences the events created apparently had no effect on their opinion. Seventy-three percent said Philly should host more large-scale events.

Mayor Jim Kenney also received overwhelming support: 53 percent of the respondents said they approve of the first-year mayor's job performance. His 23 percent disapproval is the lowest for a Philly mayor since Pew began the poll seven years ago.

Philadelphians were less enthusiastic about City Council. Forty-four percent of those polled said they approve of the job the council is doing, compared to 37 percent disapproval, and the remaining 19 percent were unsure or refused to answer.

The School District of Philadelphia fared even worse that the council. Forty-two percent of the respondents rated public schools as poor. Only 4 percent felt the school system was excellent and 18 percent rated public schools as good.

Perhaps that explains why more than one-fifth of respondents between the ages 18-34 indicated schools and children's upbringing as a possible reason for them leaving the city.

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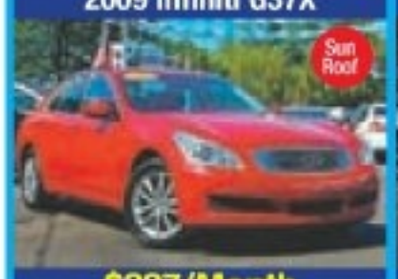

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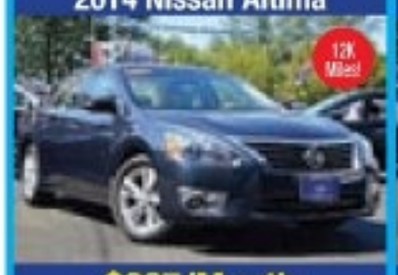

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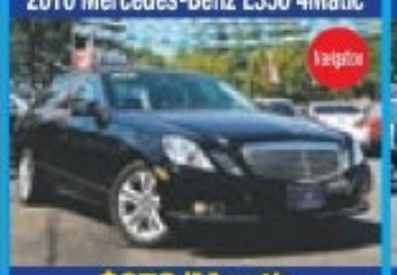

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White House: President Obama shortens prison sentences for 102 convicts

President Barack Obama shortened the prison sentences for 102 convicts serving time for drug-related offenses in his latest round of commutations, the White House said on Thursday.

Obama has now granted a total of 774 commutations during his presidency, which ends on Jan. 20, as part of his push to reform the criminal justice system to reduce the number of people serving long sentences for nonviolent drug offenses.

Obama had hoped to work with a bipartisan group of lawmakers in the U.S. Congress on legislation to reduce mandatory minimum sentences, but those efforts have stalled ahead of the Nov. 8 presidential election.

"Only the passage of legislation can achieve the broader reforms needed to ensure our federal sentencing system operates more fairly and effectively in the service of public safety," White House Counsel Neil Eggleston said in a statement.

Eggleston said Obama has commuted more sentences than the previous 11 presidents combined — and more this year than in any other single year in U.S. history.

Civil rights advocacy groups had hoped that his administration would be able to process thousands of clemency applications, but Obama's programs has experienced long backlogs.

President Barack Obama GETTY IMAGES

"While he will continue to review cases on an individualized basis throughout the remainder of his term, these statistics make clear that the president and his administration have succeeded in efforts to reinvigorate the clemency process," Eggleston said.

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ADVICE BETWEEN ROUNDS

TOM FOREMAN

Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously." @tomforemancnn

Well, the second presidential debate is at hand, or as I like to call it: The Reaping 2.

Seriously, after Donald Trump's lackluster performance last time, I practically expect Hillary Clinton to come riding in on a Harley, wearing a spiked helmet and blasting "Hells Bells." I know some Trump diehards want to think he did OK the first time, and for about a little while he did have her on defense. But then she tore into him so fiercely he went white in the face — which, all things considered, was a pleasant change from orange. But I digress…

As I've noted here before, polls say both these candidates are pretty big disappointments to the public at large, and only a minority expect much good no matter who gets elected. But debates should be at least interesting, and if one person just lays there being kicked it gets monotonous. So in the spirit of competition, let me offer a little advice to the Republican contender.

First, you've got to get Clinton off balance. She'll be ready if you come at her over emails, Benghazi, bank speeches or her husband's indiscretions. Ask her about the Giant's secondary, and the point spread for the Pats with Brady back in the game. When she looks confused, shout "Ha! And you call yourself a leader!"

Second, don't get lured into debating policies. So far that has not been your strength. When she throws out any information that sounds solid, say "Oh, so those are the 'facts'?" and make quote marks in the air with your fingers. Pro tip: eye rolling never hurts.

Third, distract her. Whenever she has you pinned down, change the subject fast. For example, if she says "Mr. Trump, I believe you are hiding something in your tax returns!" You respond, "Yes, a delicious BLT!"

Or you could study more, practice like you mean it, and actually be ready this time around. I'm not sure that will help you win, but I hear a Harley revving in the hallway — so it's worth a shot.

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NTSB: Train engineer applied brakes just before crash

The train had been traveling at 8 mph 38 seconds prior to the collision and then speed began to increase and reached a maximum of about 21 mph before the crash.

Train personel survey the N.J. Transit train that crashed in to the platform at the Hoboken Terminal. GETTY IMAGES

A New Jersey commuter train accelerated to twice the speed limit shortly before it crashed into a station in Hoboken last week, investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday.

The engineer applied the brakes less than a second before the train crashed into the station's bumping post, according to information obtained from the train data recorder, the investigators said. A woman on the station platform was killed in the Sept. 29 crash and more than 100 people were injured.

The NTSB said preliminary data showed the train was traveling at 21 miles per hour at the time of the crash, twice the maximum 10 mph speed limit in the station.

The NTSB said the engineer-induced emergency braking occurred less than a second before the collision.

The engineer of the train told investigators he was fully rested but has no memory of the incident, the NTSB said Sunday.

Thomas Gallagher, a 29-year New Jersey Transit veteran who was injured when the train derailed, told investigators the train was running at 10 miles an hour when it was approaching the station, NTSB Vice Chair Bella Dinh-Zarr said at a news conference Sunday.

When interviewed by investigators, Gallagher said he conducted various procedures, including checking the train's speedometer, and put his cellphone away during the trip, NTSB said this week. REUTERS

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US FCC to vote on revised broadband privacy regulations

The Federal Communications Commission will vote Oct. 27 on a revised proposal for rules to safeguard privacy of broadband users.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's initial proposal came under harsh criticism from internet service providers such as Verizon Communications Inc., AT&T Inc. and Comcast Corp. because it subjected them to more stringent rules than websites like Facebook Inc., Twitter or Google, which are overseen by Federal Trade Commission rules.

Providers had especially objected to sweeping "opt in" requirements under the initial proposal for using nearly all consumer data. Under the proposal,

Tom Wheeler GETTY IMAGES

providers must only get "opt in" or affirmative consent for sensitive data like health, finances, web-browsing history, child data, and Social Security numbers.

But it allows other data to be used with "opt out" or implied consent for marketing purposes.

FCC officials said the rules are more in line with FTC privacy rules for websites.

USTelecom, a trade group representing Verizon, AT&T and others, said it was concerned the FCC "is now attempting to redefine what consumers may regard as sensitive" and might not agree with the FTC's definition.

Wheeler said the FCC has long required telephone companies to protect information associated with phone calls and now must do the same with internet service.

Several consumer groups including the Consumer Federation of America backed the revised proposal, as did Sen. Edward Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat.

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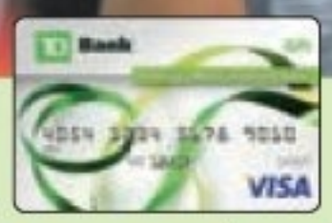

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Justin Theroux plays the ex-husband of Emily Blunt's serial voyeur and hot mess in the movie of "The Girl on the Train." DREAMWORKS PICTURES

wknd

THE FUN STARTS HERE

Acting isn't 'brain surgery'

Justin Theroux talks "The Girl on the Train" and not having a lot of actorly ego.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

We can't really talk to Justin Theroux about "The Girl on the Train." In the movie version of Paula Hawkins' mega-best seller, the actor and writer plays Tom, the ex-husband of Emily Blunt's public transit-riding voyeur, and one of several potential perpetrators in the missing person case that forms the plot. Most of his character's big stuff doesn't happen until the third act, and we'd never dream of spoiling it (even though so many readers already know what happens). But there's plenty of other things to talk about. After all, Theroux, 45, is a Renaissance man: He stars in "The Leftovers," and co-wrote "Tropic Thunder" and "Zoolander 2."

We talked to Theroux about people-watching, actor cliches and laughing at James Lipton.

We can't say much about your character. However, we can talk about Emily Blunt's protagonist. I found it was an empathetic portrayal of someone who's a hot mess, as well as a voyeur, which is usually portrayed as creepy.

But that's something we all do anyway. You ride the subway and stare across the aisle. We think, "They're probably this or that." We probably don't do it to the extent that she does, but we do it every day. It's human nature.

I feel like journalists, actors and writers are the only people who can people-watch and not seem creepy. It's like "Hey, we're just doing our job!"

Exactly. It's about observation. It's important to stay street-level and listen to strangers. I know that sounds like a dumb actor thing to say.

Are you one of those actors who hates actor-speak — when thespians during interviews or talk show wax poetic on their "craft"?

Yeah. That's why I love watching James Lipton. It's a s—show every show. I love watching DVD extras, particularly war movies, where the actors say, "Oh, we were in a war!" No. It's our job to pretend to make some faces. That's it. [Laughs] Just say the words that other people wrote. It's not like we're doing brain surgery.

Writers' jobs are way harder.

Way harder. Acting is a dessert compared to creating a f—ing entree. When actors get scripts and they say, "Yeah, I don't think I'd say this," or "I don't think I'd do that," it's like, "Really? Because you didn't come up with it. And I thought you would." No one does a Mamet play and goes, "You know what? I'm just gonna riff on this!" Movies and television are, for some reason, the only mediums where actors can say, "I want to change this."

It sounds like you're not one of those with a lot of actorly ego.

I don't! I don't even have a lot of writerly ego.

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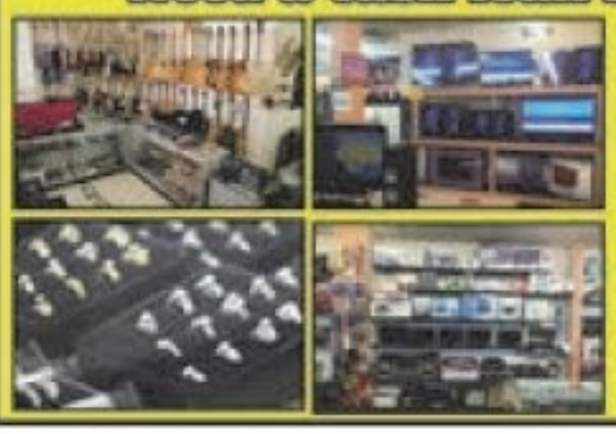

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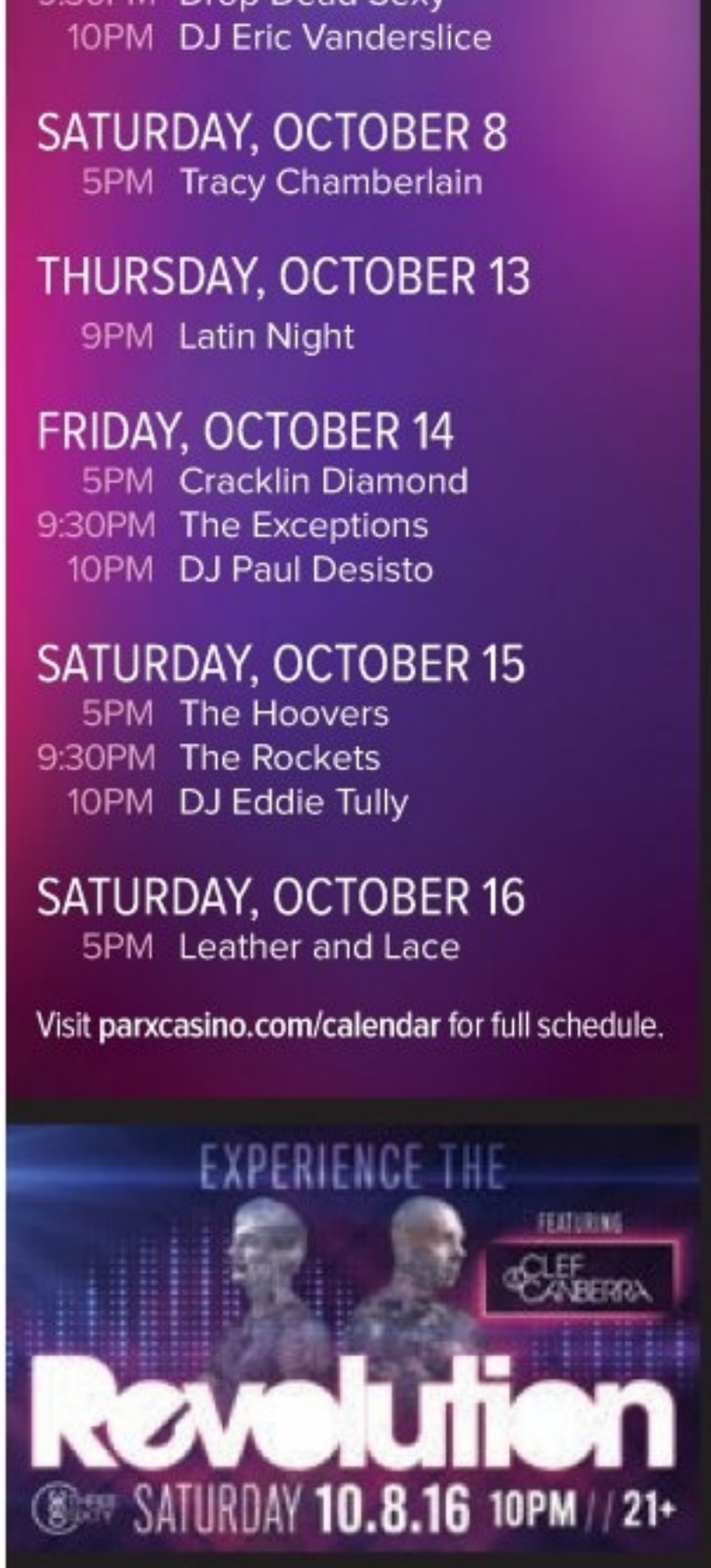

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"The Girl on the Train"

Director: Tate Taylor
Stars: Emily Blunt, Rebecca Ferguson
Rating: R

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On one hand, "The Girl on the Train" movie is to the "Gone Girl" film what the books were to each other: a step-down. On the other hand: Emily Blunt! The actress has always been the type whose movies were worth watching just to see what exciting jazz she's doing in them. It doesn't matter what the subject matter is, or if the rest of the movie will be any good. All that matters is that there will be Blunt.

It doesn't deserve it, but "The Girl on the Train" possesses top-shelf Emily Blunt. So much of Paula Hawkins' best seller smacks of Gillian Flynn's: There's a missing girl (Haley Bennett), perspective shifts between characters. But there's nothing in "Gone Girl" like Blunt's Rachel. She's the eponymous hot mess — a deeply damaged, blackout drunk who gets embroiled in a tangled, twisty mystery after observing what she suspects is foul play from the window of public transit. She's also uniquely screwed-up — peerlessly pathetic and self-destructive, the person you want to help but eventually have to push away out of self-preservation. And here she is, our lead character.

Blunt doesn't sugarcoat Rachel or make her likable. Her unflattering secrets are doled out piecemeal throughout the film, and each time we learn something new she ramps up her performance, spluttering and flailing about all the more. Watching Blunt's touchingly frantic work is more compelling than following the mystery in which Rachel's engulfed, though her intrusion into it adds a shot in the arm. Rachel starts as a mere voyeur from the train, then suddenly shows up in the characters' lives, sloppily trying to play detective. She wants to know the truth, but she also starts to suspect herself — that one of her crazed blackouts might have gone worse than usual.

But the movie is often as sloppy as Rachel herself. This is a film with a lot of strong ideas, touching on self-deception, female oppression and class. It works in unreliable narrators and time jumps. It has a heavy style that makes for a sleepy whodunit but also a deeply empathetic look at lonely, haunted women. It doesn't want to be the "Gone Girl" movie, where it picked up once things turned mad. Thing is, it's destined for a place that's far more stupid, at which point the many balls it has in the air come crashing down. Then again, miss this Emily Blunt performance at your own peril. MATT PRIGGE

Emily Blunt plays a disturbed woman who injects herself into a potential murder in "The Girl on the Train." DREAMWORKS PICTURES

"The Birth of a Nation"

Director: Nate Parker
Stars: Nate Parker, Armie Hammer
Rating: R

●●●○○

The inconvenient truth about Nate Parker's Nat Turner movie is that it's neither masterpiece nor dog. The latter would be the easy outcome: If it were overpraised bunk, we wouldn't have to deal with the discomfort of separating art from artist, like we do with Roman Polanski and Woody Allen. We could pounce on it without regret — except for the nagging fact that it was born out of peerless nobility and could even play a key role in medicating an ailing country.

Instead "The Birth of a Nation" is somewhere in the middle, though closer to good: a movie that gets more right than it does wrong, that has much to admire beyond it being a movie about Nat Turner released at a time when we need a frank and fiery film about race in America. Its biggest crimes are quiet and subtle. It's often amateur hour, which is to be expected (first-time filmmaker, an understandably low budget for a film Hollywood would never make). It skips over certain details that would have made its climactic rabble-rouser that much more galvanizing. It's sloppy at the times it needs to be precise.

And yet the foundation is strong. We see Turner, played by Parker himself, from childhood to rebel leader, seeing how even life on a relatively humane(ish) plantation led him to take furious vengeance. Throughout Parker shows the expected atrocities, plus less-expected forays into how religion could be used for solace and for ill, with Turner paraded about to preach the Gospel to neighboring slaves, but only because their masters were afraid they were on the cusp of revolt.

These are smart touches that add to a rich film. That might even forgive it the parts where its insufficiently complex. The filmmaking's often stiff, the final lead-up to the revolt itself rushed. Most shocking of all, Parker is merely adequate as Nat Turner. He's a very fine actor, but his Nat Turner is sometimes too opaque, less passionate than merely there, coming to life only when he finally turns fiery. After all that's transpired since its Sundance triumph, the truth is it's not a game-changer, not a new kind of movie about slavery, not even a film that may change minds. It's merely good. MP

Nate Parker, center, wrote, directed and stars in "The Birth of a Nation," in which he plays slave-rebellion leader Nat Turner. FOX SEARCHLIGHT

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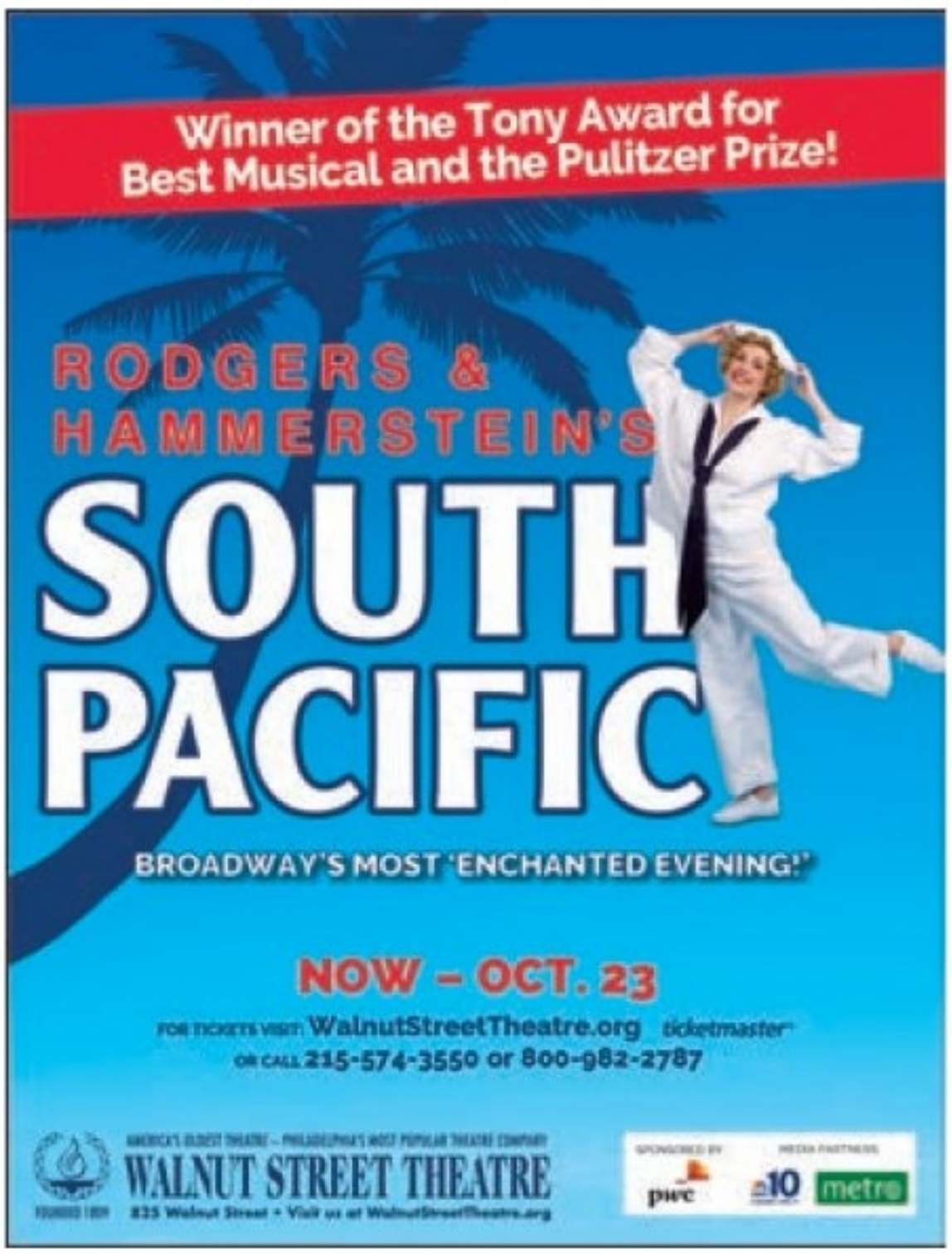
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Marvel's TV may be better than its movies

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
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"Luke Cage," starring Mike Colter, is the latest Marvel show to get boffo reviews. MYLES ARONOWITZ, NETFLIX

I just started watching "Luke Cage." Sadly, since I'm my own boss, I couldn't call in with a terrible cold to binge-watch the entire thing. I'd know I was lying, and I'd totally fire me. Anyway, though I'm not through it (and not reading spoilers is killing me), there is a lot that stands out here.

First of all, the music. Creator Cheo Hodari Coker has a long history with music, and there is a feel to this show's soundtrack that absolutely slays. Beyond that, the performances are amazing. It's beautifully lit. I know talking about how pretty a show/film is usually a bad sign, but in this case, it's absolutely not. It's just one more piece of awesomeness to add to the pile.

Maybe you've watched more than I have. Maybe you haven't started yet. I'm sure you've seen all the rave reviews. Here's why I'm writing about it: Marvel has absolutely conquered the airwaves (yes, I know that word is archaic) with its television universe, maybe even more than its films have.

Sure, the films are amazing. I adore them, and the box office tells me you do, too. Not every one was great (I'm looking at you, "Thor: The Dark World"), but "Captain America: Civil War" pretty much blew my mind. The reason I'm actually a little bit more in love with their Netflix TV universe — "Luke Cage," "Jessica Jones," "Daredevil" — is that we get to spend real time with characters we love. (I adored ABC's "Agent Carter" for different and myriad reasons, but I'm concentrating on the Netflix stuff here.) We get to take 12 hours to learn about them, rather than two. We've still got the cross-overs, the larger story involving the Avengers, sure. But we also have a connection by looking at a backstory you can't get in film.

We go deep, not just with the heroes but with the villains. We get to know them as more than just a guy twirling his mustache or a girl in black leather with an angry face. We learn who they are and why they're like this. There are no punches pulled here, because there is no traditional network to clean things up. It's gritty, it's dark, and it's not for the kiddies.

In a way, spending a lot of time with characters instead of just seeing bits of them on the big screen makes it feel more like the comics. I've been reading about Ms. Marvel for a long time, so I've gotten to know who she is, why she feels the way she does and how she reacts to mundane things. I know about the larger events in the world. It makes me feel like I can identify with her even more, having seen her flaws and her triumphs over so much time. Getting as many shows that interconnect as we are is giving me a new fantasy world to play in. It's pretty darn awesome.

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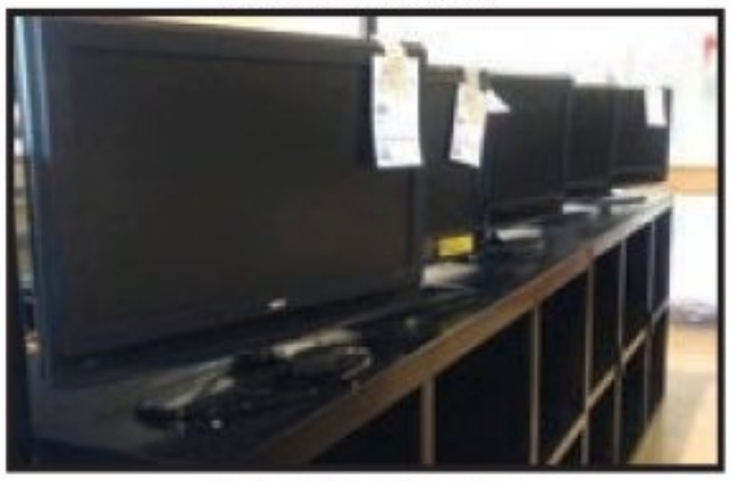

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Thomas Haden Church returns to TV thanks to Sarah Jessica Parker

"Divorce" debuts this Sunday, Oct. 9 on HBO.

JENNIFER LOGUE
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It's been a while since Thomas Haden Church did television. The 56-year-old actor starred in sitcoms in the 1990s like the hit "Wings," and the short-lived "Ned and Stacey," before hitting the big screen for his Oscar nominated role in 2004's "Sideways," where he played a washed up actor on a road trip through wine country.

But it was a call from long time friend Sarah Jessica Parker that officially brought Church back to TV with HBO's "Divorce," which chronicles a married couple's long road to breaking up. It premieres this Sunday on the network.

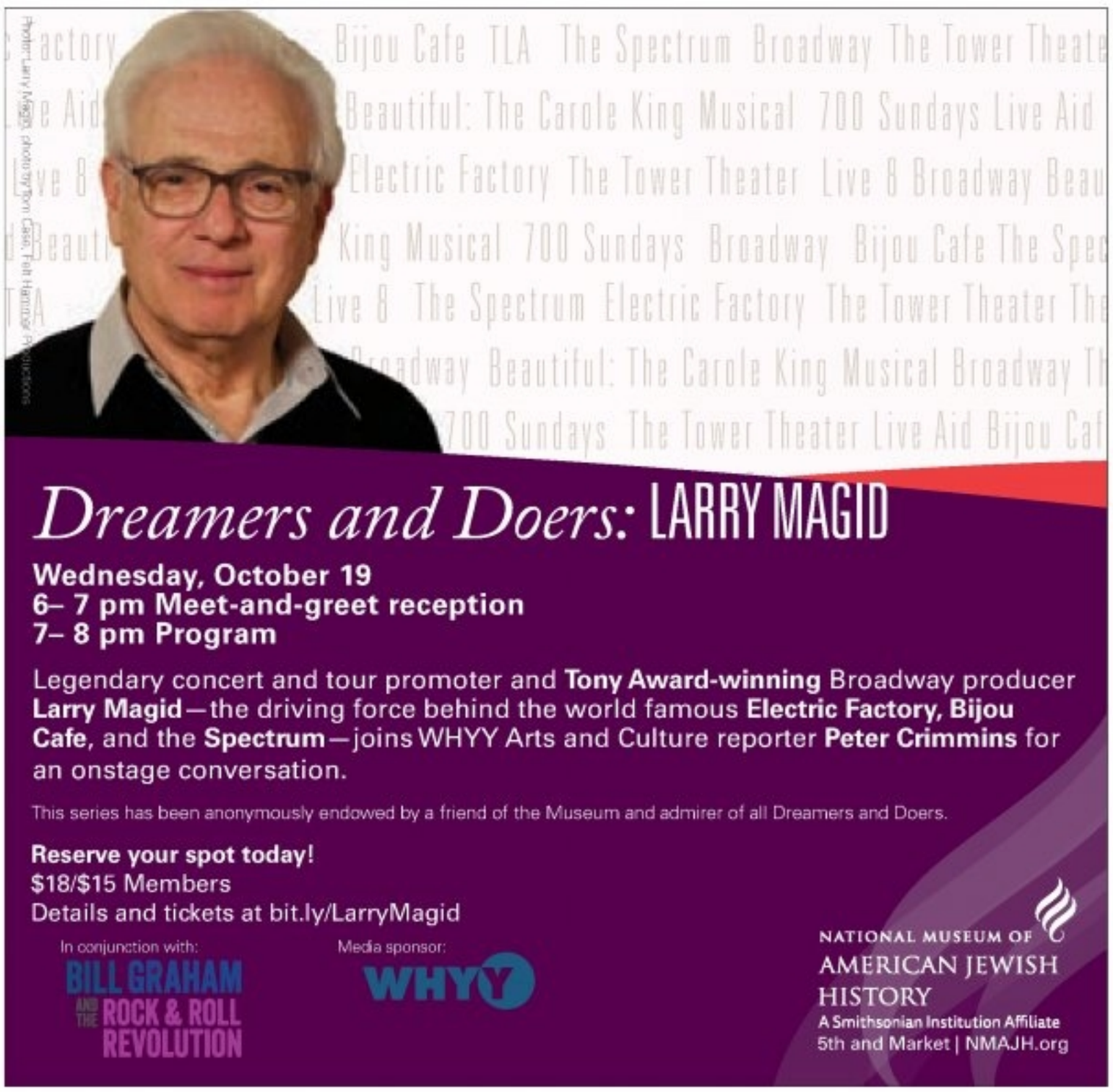
Church chatted with us from his ranch in Texas about moving out of Los Angeles, why he decided to tackle the role of a husband being cheated on by his wife (played by Sarah Jessica Parker) and what it's like working with one of television's most beloved stars.

Where are you calling from today?
I'm at my house in Texas. I don't know if you know Texas very well, but it's in a town about an hour from San Antonio and then my ranch is about 35 miles from Kerrville.

That's interesting, you don't live in LA.
I moved away from L.A. five years ago and just sort of made friends with the idea that it might be better to not be seen and just be heard from periodically. I do my press obligations and then I come back home. A lot of the movies don't happen in California. They happen everywhere else.

So how did the opportunity with "Divorce" come about?
Sarah Jessica and I worked together on a movie called "Smart People" years ago and we hit it off. They were ready to start putting the cast together and she reached out and asked if I would consider it. I had not done TV in a long time, and turned down a lot [of roles] since "Ned and Stacey."

"Divorce" chronicles a couple's long road to officially calling it quits. CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO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From left: Robert (Thomas Haden Church) with his wife Francesca (Sarah Jessica Parker) CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO

What made you decide to accept this role?

It was definitely working with her. If I am going to go back to television, HBO is really the place to do it. I felt like they were kind of leaving every conceivable door and window open to where the story was going to go, and where the characters were all going to go. I just felt that it was a very unique examination of divorce.

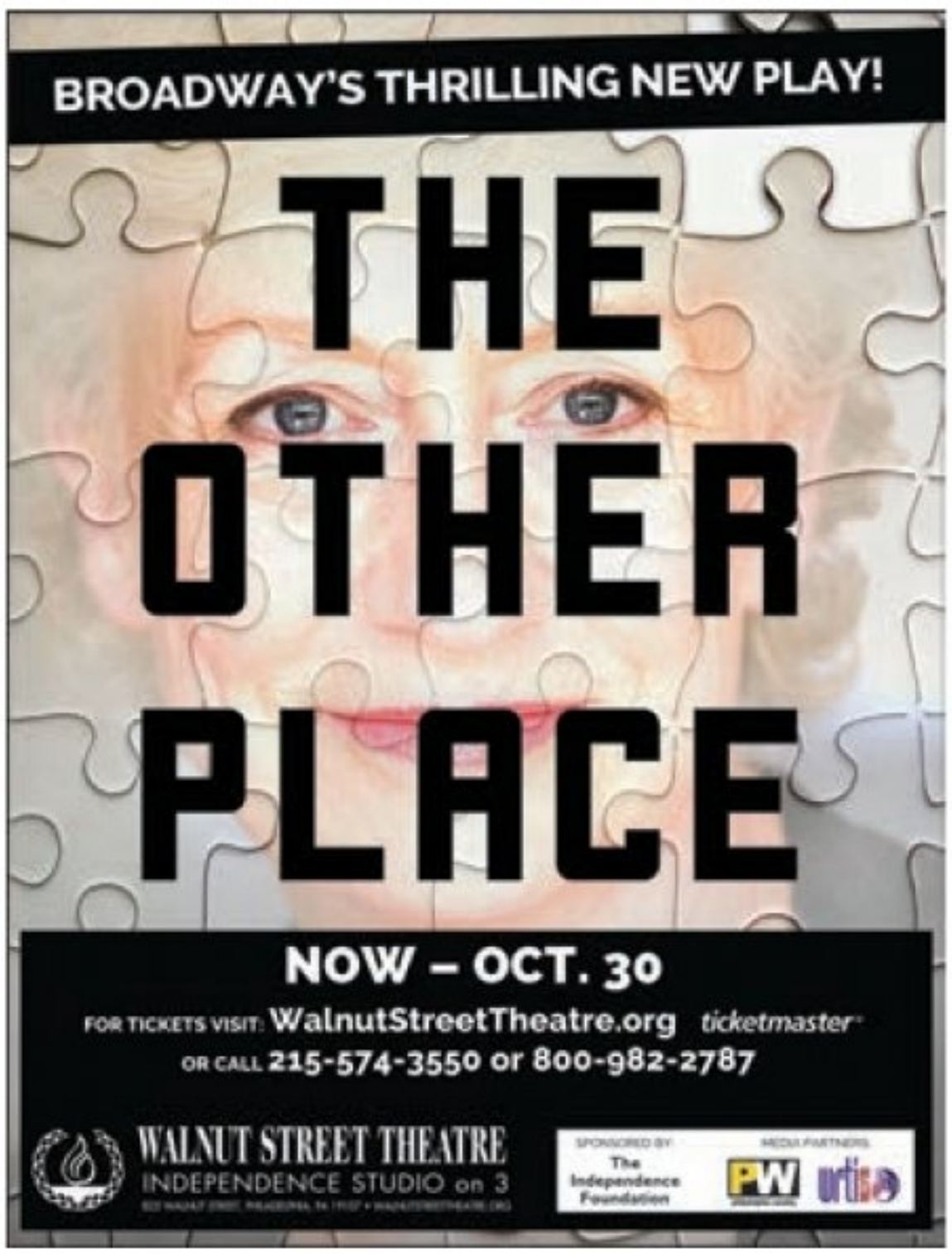
What's it like working with Sarah Jessica?

She is supremely professional, disciplined, funny, thoughtful and she treats everybody exactly the same. Whether it's the director, a cast member ... One of her brothers is a Teamster in the New York local. I say that only as an example of just how grounded she is as an individual. The thing that's probably more astonishing than anything about her is how she's absolutely crack-a-whip smart about storytelling.

So the pilot was emotionally confusing for me — but in a good way. Would you classify this show as a dark comedy?

Excellent observation. It's apart of the culture now. Everything needs to be defined. Take reality television. They say it's "softly scripted." If it's scripted it's no longer reality. I'm happy to say I can't define "Divorce" in a conventional way. There are some funny human moments and some dark human moments. It's the human experience.

"Divorce" premieres on HBO this Sunday, Oct. 9 at 10 p.m.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Union MLS playoff hopes slipping, must win in last two matches to clinch

The Union have not won a game since Aug. 27.

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This is not how the Union (11-12-9) imagined the end of their season to play out. With just two matches remaining in the regular season, the team is in familiar and unsettling territory. The sixth-place Union must get a win in their final two matches to secure a spot in the MLS playoffs. They haven't won a game since Aug. 27 and fans are sweating it out as the end of the season draws near.

"It's clear what we need to do," Union manager Jim Curtin said. "We need to win a soccer game, you know? We have two at home against Orlando and this New York [Red Bulls] team, which is a good team. Both teams are good. There's no easy points in our league, so it's clear what we need to do: We need to win a game."

As players and fans are well aware, the Union haven't played in a playoff game since 2011. It's currently the longest playoff drought in Major League Soccer. The months of September and October in recent years haven't been good to the Union, they've gone a combined 10-18-9 (35.7 percent) in the past five seasons.

The Union end the season with two home games, first against Orlando City SC (7-11-14) on Sunday before finishing with the Red Bulls (14-9-9) next week. The New England Revolution (10-13-9) sit just three points below the Union in the standings for the final playoff spot in the East. The Revolution would have to get a win and at least a tie in their final two matches to surpass the Union for a playoff spot, as the Union hold nearly every tie-breaker imaginable over the Revolution.

The Union control their own fate, so long as they can pull off their first win in over a month. GETTY IMAGES

"Obviously teams are pushing in the Eastern Conference, but we still control our destiny, which is a good place to be in, and we need to get a win," Curtin said after Saturday's 3-2 loss to the Red Bulls. "It had the look and feel of a playoff game where the weather gets a little cold, things get ramped up a bit, every inch matters, every play matters."

The Union have faced Orlando twice this season, coming away with a 2-1 victory on April 8 and a 2-2 draw on May 25. It would be a much easier task to win this weekend, as the first-place Red Bulls have not lost a match since July 3.

Sunday's match will air at 3 p.m. on the Comcast Network.

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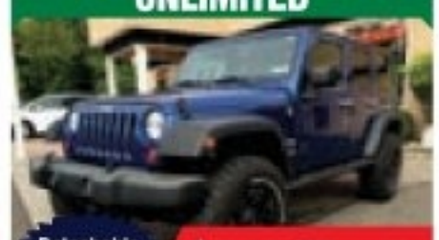
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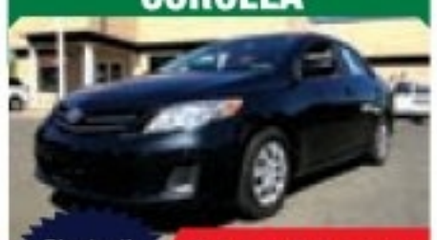
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3 Things to watch for as the Eagles return to field against Lions

The Eagles expect to have Ryan Mathews and Zach Ertz at 100 percent Sunday afternoon.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
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Expect big man Dorial Green-Beckham to be a more integral part of the Eagles offense as the season progresses. GETTY IMAGES

Historically, over the lifespans of the past three Eagles coaches, Philly is one of the NFL's best teams off the bye.

After relaxing, going home or hunting — as Carson Wentz spent his week off — the Eagles are back in action Sunday at 1 p.m. and get another break from the schedule as they travel to Detroit to face the lowly Lions.

The 1-3 Lions are one week away from failing to score a touchdown against the drearily bad Bears and the 3-0 Eagles are 3.5 point favorites on the road.

Here are three things to think about leading up to the Week 5 battle:

Fresh Birds

Injuries?

"We don't have any, so that's a great thing going into this football game," Eagles head coach Doug Pederson said.

Zach Ertz, Leodis McKelvin and other wounded Eagles have practiced this week and are all expected to play in Week 5. This is particularly good news regarding tight end Ertz, who will no doubt be an asset for rookie quarterback Wentz.

He'll also have the chance to put up big numbers against the worst defense in the NFL against tight ends this season. Running back Ryan Mathews is expected to play as well.

Establishing the run

Mathews, as previously mentioned, will play Sunday after sitting out Week 3 despite being listed as active. He's been nursing an ankle injury but according to the Eagles staff, he'll be the featured back against the Lions.

"Ryan is still our primary guy," Doug Pederson said. "He's our go-to guy. He's 100 percent and we go with Ryan and we mix the other guys in according to play or game plan."

The Eagles have run the ball OK, but not great with most of their yardage compiled after building big leads and running down the clock. Expect to see more running earlier, including the occasional Wentz run.

"I think you've got a guy like Carson who's a dynamic athlete, and the threat of him running is as much a weapon for us as anything else," offensive coordinator Frank Reich said when asked about designed plays for Wentz to use his legs.

Lion taming

The Eagles have impressively handled the Steelers' high-powered defense along with the Bears' and Browns' top offensive weapons and will once again look to put up a solid effort against the Lions.

"I like watching [Lions QB Matthew] Stafford play," Pederson said. "I think he's a good quarterback. Golden Tate and Anquan Boldin is a smart, veteran guy. It can be a situation where if they get on a little bit of a roll it's hard to stop them. And their run game — obviously with any team — becomes really important."

The Eagles have allowed the third least rushing yards per game so far, and lead the NFL in points allowed per game with nine.

"Defensively, very similar style of defense like we play with those wide defensive ends," Pederson continued, assessing the Lions. "It's a get up the field. It's an attack mentality. The benefit to it is that we see it every day in practice, so we're used to this style. But the same time, they are aggressive and it's something you see from them every week."

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48 - Joshua Paul Martin (Household, Furniture, Clothes),
445 - Nicholas Wyatt (Household, Furniture, Clothes),
317 - Daniel P Wallace Jr (Household),
603 - Kathleen Hughes (Household, Furniture, Clothes),
531 - Rasheeda Alonda Ford (Household)
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C215C Kathy Margiotta (Furniture), D102 Vincent Mcdonald (Household Items), D145 Olga Ziat (Household Items),
E107 Ashley Ann Warzel (Household Furniture), E116 Olga Ziat (Household Items), F110 Kelli Trainahay (Household Items),
F124 Manushka Lalibien-Bernard (Household Items), F126 Teresa Toner (Household Goods).
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Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self Storage Act, Pennsylvania Statues, 73, Chapter 26, 1901 et seq., A Public Auction Will take Place on 10/20/16 at the below listed Public Storage Facilities for the follow units/Tenants. The Contents of which shall satisfy the Owners Lien. Public Storage Located At, 2700 Grant Ave. Philadelphia PA 19114 at 11:00 AM (215) 698-8319.
Anthony Hammerquist, Larry Rice, Liza Blanco, Karen PEREZ, Michael Owens, George Lutz,
Lori Corey, Robert Torkonoo, Kyle Livezey, Elizabeth Ferliano, Dena Williams,
Shayla Chatary, Delphine Coleman, Shawnia Walton, Susan Diaz, Mary Clark,
BEATRICE Collins, Patience Robertson, Frederick Lynch, Dwayne Steers,
Danisha Newkirk, Christopher Stieffenhofer, Joseph Meade
All Sales Are subject to Cancellation Public Storage Terms, Rules and Regulations will be made prior to the sale.
PS Orangeco Inc. 701 Western Ave. Glendale California, 91201. PS ORANGECO, INC

Public Storage
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self-Storage Facility Act, Pennsylvania Statutes, Title 73, Chapter 26, § 1901 et seq., a public auction will take place on 10/20/2016, at the below-listed Public Storage facilities, for the following units/Tenant. The contents of which shall be sold satisfy the owner's lien. Public Storage Located At, 1251 Byberry Road, Philadelphia, PA 19116 at 10:00AM (215) 678-8764.
Arthur Marnien, Linda Bunch, Chaunte Traeye, Valerie Paluszynski,
Augusta Clay, Lisa Kania, Hedy Powers, Eugene Beaddy, Tamara Marcolongo,
Timothy Montanya, Kerry Wedemeyer, Steven Posten Jr, William Ritchey
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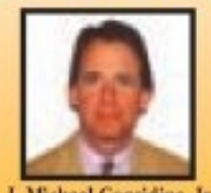

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Unit Name Contents**

4100 Geiger, Albert HH, C • 5230 Hamid, Qadree A HH • 4091 Jeffcoat, Brian HH
4029 Johnson, Bridget L HH, C, F • 5115 Malone-Sutton, Preston C HH, C, F
5094 Matunda III, William HH, F • 5227 Roberts, Sacorra S HH, F • 4047 SAFFORD, RICHARD F HH, C, F
2090 Sparrow, Patricia G HH, C, F • 5099 Thomas, Maurice D HH • 2051 Warner, Tisa R HH, F
5142 Webb, Arthur J HH, F • 3070D Webb, Jihaad C T, B • 4030 White-Wilson, Annie HH
4070 White-Wilson, Annie HH • 5140 Wilson, Keith A HH, C, F

**Key: HH - Household; F – Furniture; M – Metal; C – Clothing; B – Boxes/Bags; O – Office; T – Tools/Totes

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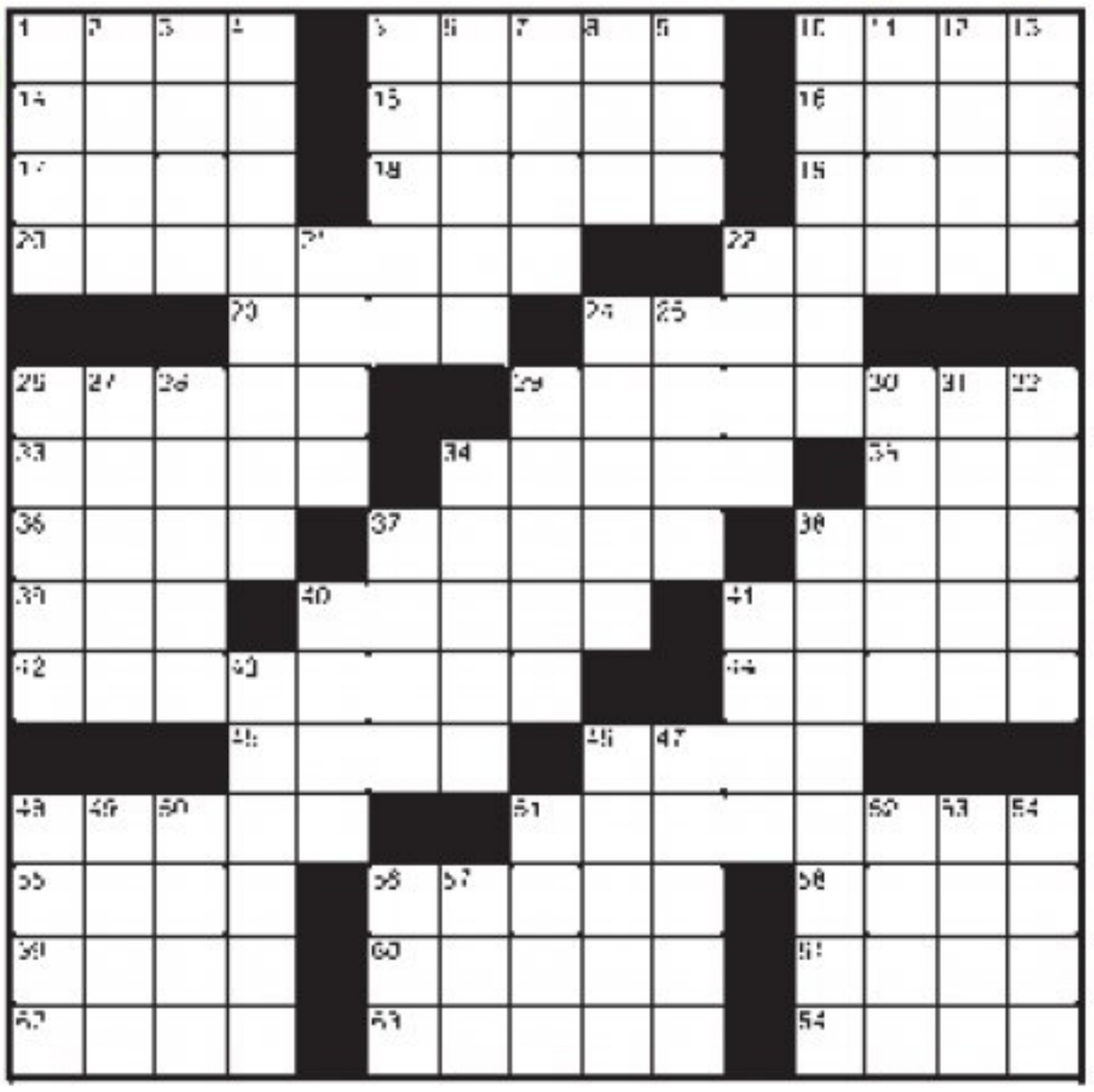

Across

1 Cheadle and Johnson
5 Vamoose
10 Prefix with byte
14 Delhi nursemaid
15 Underworld ruler
16 Tel --
17 Kind of series
18 Women with nephews
19 Oats enthusiast
20 Raining and hailing
22 Extends credit
23 "Cujo" author
24 Depot info
26 Rajahs' spouses
29 Waterproofing
33 Go-between
34 Read intently
35 Woodland creature
36 Dross
37 Used a skillet
38 Shriveled from heat
39 Poker winning
40 Large antelope
41 Defrauds
42 Fainting
44 Search party
45 Lighter part
46 Border on
48 Give in
51 Partly covers
55 Proficient
56 Cook's garment
58 Microbiology gel
59 In case
60 Bullet --
61 Evening, to Pierre
62 Former spouses
63 Stale
64 Elcar or Wynter

Down

1 Pond makers
2 Not mention
3 Prefix for second
4 Evading a chore
5 Where Valencia is
6 Held on tight
7 Pealed
8 Legal rep.
9 Yr. fractions
10 Having the most spunk
11 Dreaded czar
12 Encompass
13 Forum hellos
21 Thin fog
22 Heap praise upon
24 Goofed up
25 Nailed obliquely
26 Coarse files
27 Radiant
28 Groovy
29 On the way out
30 Glimmerings
31 Benchmarks
32 Formation fliers
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37 Paris cop
38 "Braveheart" setting
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46 Eschew
47 -- Goodman
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49 Wild goat
50 Failing that
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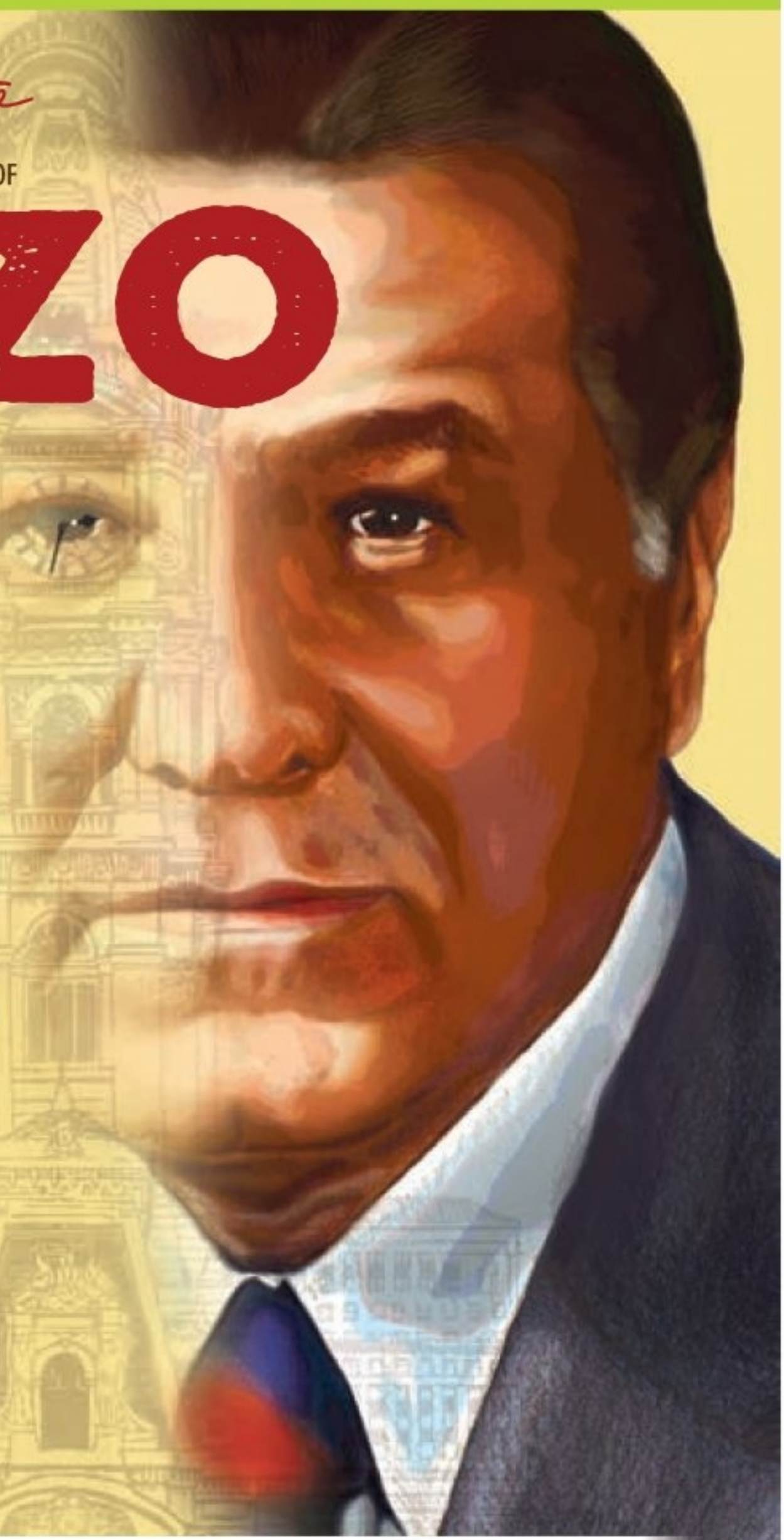

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